

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-1029V

Filed: April 1, 2014

Not for Publication

E.J.N., an Infant, by his Mother and *
Natural Guardian, APRIL NOON, *

Petitioner, *

v. * Damages decision based on proffer;

RotaTeq vaccine; intussusception
requiring surgical intervention

SECRETARY OF HEALTH *
AND HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

Larry Rosenfeld, Babylon, NY, for petitioner.

Claudia B. Gangi, Washington, DC, for respondent.

MILLMAN, Special Master

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On December 30, 2013, petitioner filed a petition under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10–34 (2006), alleging that E.J.N. suffered intussusception requiring surgical intervention as a result of receiving RotaTeq vaccine on October 2, 2012. On March 25, 2014, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) Report, conceding that E.J.N. suffered from intussusception requiring surgical intervention after receipt of RotaTeq vaccine and

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall redact such material from public access.

recommending that petitioner be awarded compensation.

On April 1, 2014, respondent filed Respondent's Proffer on Award of Compensation. The undersigned finds the terms of the proffer to be reasonable. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to the award as stated in the proffer. Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached proffer, the court awards petitioner a lump sum payment of **\$35,000.00**, representing compensation for actual and projected pain and suffering. The award shall be in the form of a check made payable to petitioner, April Noon, as guardian/conservator of E.J.N.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 1, 2014

/s/ Laura D. Millman
Laura D. Millman
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party, either separately or jointly, filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

judgment as provided under the Vaccine Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(A). Petitioner agrees.

B. Lost Future Earnings

Respondent proffers that based upon the evidence of record, E.J.N. has not, and he is not likely to suffer a loss of earnings as a result of his vaccine injury. Accordingly, petitioner should not be awarded lost future earnings as provided under the Vaccine Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(3)(A). Petitioner agrees.

C. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of \$35,000.00 for E.J.N.'s actual and projected pain and suffering. This amount reflects that the award for projected pain and suffering has been reduced to net present value. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

D. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Respondent proffers that based upon the evidence of record, petitioner has not incurred any past unreimbursable expenses related to E.J.N.'s vaccine-related injury. Petitioner agrees.

E. Medicaid Lien

Petitioners represent that there are no outstanding Medicaid liens related to E.J.N.'s vaccine-related injury.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to E.J.N. should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the special master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

A. A lump sum payment of \$35,000.00 (representing compensation for actual and projected pain and suffering), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, April Noon, as

guardian/conservator of E.J.N.

B. No payments shall be made until petitioner provides respondent with documentation establishing that she has been appointed as the guardian/conservator of E.J.N.'s estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of E.J.N., any such payment shall be made to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of E.J.N. upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

III. Summary of Recommended Payment Following Judgment

A lump sum payment of \$35,000.00, representing compensation for actual and projected pain and suffering, payable to petitioner as the guardian/conservator of E.J.N.'s estate.

Respectfully submitted,

STUART F. DELERY
Assistant Attorney General

RUPA BHATTACHARYYA
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

VINCENT J. MATANOSKI
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

GLENN A. MACLEOD
Senior Trial Counsel
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Claudia B. Gangi

CLAUDIA B. GANGI

Senior Trial Attorney

Torts Branch, Civil Division

U.S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 146

Benjamin Franklin Station

Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

Tel.: (202) 616-4138

Dated: April 1, 2014